

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07  
L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ARA-06 IO-13 /101 W  
-----241834Z 080406 /40

R 241309Z MAR 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2411  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6967  
SECDEF WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USCINCEUR  
USDOCSOUTH  
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1674

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XF, XA  
SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING (NAC): MARCH 23, 1977

REF: (A) STATE 64043 (DTG 230106Z MAR 77) (NOTAL),  
(B) STATE 63648 (DTG 222251Z MAR 77) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING MARCH 23 NAC REVIEW OF EXPERTS'  
REPORTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA: A) ITALIAN  
PERMREP REPORTE ON ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S MID-  
MARCH MIDDLE EAST TRIP WHERE HE FOUND MORE ARAB  
FLEXIBILITY IN PRIVATE THAN IN PUBLIC; B) THE FRENCH  
PERMREP TOLD OF THE PROMISING RESULTS OF THE RECENT  
MEETING IN PARIS OF THE LEADERS OF THE FRENCH  
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TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS (TFAI); C) THE UK  
AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT LONDON DOES NOT BELIEVE  
THE TIME IS RIPE FOR A FURTHER UK INITIATIVE  
ON RHODESIA; ANDD) THE AMBASSADOR INFORMED  
HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN  
ZAIRE. SYG LUNS MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD  
WELCOME ANALYSES OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE  
CASTRO AND PODGORNÝ VISITS TO AFRICA. ACTION  
REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE TIMELY ANALYSES  
OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE VISITS WHICH WE

MIGHT SHARE WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS ANSWERS BY MARCH 30 TO QUESTIONS POSED TO AMBASSADOR AND NOTED IN PARAS 2 AND 6 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING POINTS OF NOTE EMERGED FROM THE MARCH 23 NAC DISCUSSIONS:

THE FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS - TINE (FRANCE) REPORTED ON THE TALKS WHICH CONCLUDED IN PARIS ON MARCH 19 BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL FORCES IN THE FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS (TFAI), WHERE ALMOST ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND FORCES IN THE TFAI WERE REPRESENTED. FRANCE ATTEMPTED TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF A POLICY OF RECONCILIATION. TINE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THE TALKS (A) A REFERENDUM ON SELF-DETERMINATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 8; AND (B) ELECTIONS WILL ALSO BE HELD, WITH INDEPENDENCE BEING GRANTED ON JUNE 27. THE QUESTION OF A REFERENDUM CAUSED NO PROBLEMS DURING THE PARIS TALKS, BUT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION REGARDING ELECTIONS. SOME OF THE TFAI PARTIES WERE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ELECTIONS. TINE SAID A HYBRID SOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AND ELECTIONS WILL DEFINITELY TAKE PLACE. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRENCH  
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MINISTRIES OF COOPERATION AND DEFENSE WILL NOT TO DJIBOUTI TO PREPARE AGREEMENTS ON CONTINUED COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND AN INDEPENDENT TFAI. THOSE TFAI LEADERS PRESENT IN PARIS DESIRED A CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FRENCH TROOPS WILL REMAIN IN THE TERRITORY. TINE CHARACTERIZED THE RESULTS OF THE PARIS DISCUSSIONS AS PROMISING AND SAID THAT PARIS BELIEVES THE LEADERS OF THE TFAI DESIRE TO SET UP A TRULY INDEPENDENT STATE. SYG LUNS COMMENTED THAT HE PERSONALLY HOPES A STRONG FRENCH PRESENCE CAN BE MAINTAINED ONCE THE TERRITORY HAS BECOME INDEPENDENT.

2. THE USSR AND CUBA IN AFRICA -COMMENTING THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A SERIOUS EVALUATION OF THE CASTRO AND PODGORNÝ VISITS TO AFRICA, KILLICK (UK) NOTED THAT CASTRO IS BEING CAREFUL TO AVOID SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF PRACTICAL SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRIES HE IS VISITING. KILLICK ESTIMATED THAT THE POLICY OF THE USSR IN AFRICA WILL BE OPPORTUNISTIC BUT CAUTIOUS. THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT YET AT HOME ON THE CONTINENT, BUT IT WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE

TO MAINTAIN ITS CREDIBILITY IF GUERRILLA  
LEADERS TURN TO MOSCOW DEMANDING SUPPORT.  
TINE NOTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS  
REPORTEDLY DELIVERED SMALL ARMS AND ANTI-  
AIRCRAFT EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIAN FORCES IN  
RECENT MONTHS. FRANCE BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIET  
UNION MIGHT MORE EASILY PLAY A ROLE IN ETHIOPIA  
THAN IN SOMALIA. WITH REGARD TO ETHIOPIA,  
CATALANO(ITALY) ASKED ABOUT THE US REACTION  
TO A GROWING REAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND

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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USCINCEUR  
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THE USSR. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
AN ANALYSIS RESPONSIVE TO CATALANO'S INQUIRY  
THAT WE MIGHT SHARE WITH THE OTHER ALLIES.

3. SOUTHERN AFRICA - ON SOUTHERN AFRICA,  
KILLICK SAID THE UK CONTINUES TO BASE ITS  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT  
PEACEFUL CHANGE IS POSSIBLE. THE UK HAS NOT  
ABANDONED THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT IN  
RHODESIA. KILLICK ASSURED THE  
PERMREPS THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF A  
BILATERAL DEAL BETWEEN THE UK AND SOUTH AFRICA  
WHICH WOULD GO BEHIND THE BACKS OF "THE PEOPLE  
ON THE GROUND." HE SAID THAT LONDON REMAINS  
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SKEPTICAL ABOUT SMITH'S INTENTIONS AND DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SMITH'S PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL BEAR FRUIT. FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, HOWEVER, DOES NOT FEEL THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR A FURTHER UK INITIATIVE AS SUCH; AND HE WILL LIMIT HIS MID-APRIL TRIP TO GAINING A FIRST-HAND APPRAISAL OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. KILLICK SAID THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT OWEN WILL MEET WITH SMITH IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE COURSE OF THAT TRIP. THEN THE UK WILL TALK WITH THE US ABOUT NEXT STEPS IN RHODESIA.

4. ZAIRE - THE AMBASSADOR DREW UPON THE TALKING POINTS IN REF A, AND PROVIDED THE PERMREPS WITH THE ESSENCE OF STATE 64155 (DTG 230139Z MAR 77) (BOTH NOTAL).

5. FORLANI'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST - CATALANO REPORTED ON THE MID-MARCH VISIT OF ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI TO EGYPT, SYRIA AND LEBANON. IN CAIRO, SADAT HAD EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF THE US ATTITUDE ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS. SADAT SEEMED WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPT TRUSTS THE UNITED STATES. PRESIDENT CARTER'S EXPLANATION OF WHAT HE MEANT BY "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS" HAD COMPLETELY REASSURED "THE ARABS. SADAT ALSO TOLD FORLANI THAT THE EC COUNTRIES HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH THE PRESSURE THEY CAN EXERT ON ISRAEL. IN DAMASCUS, WHERE HE MET WITH ASSAD AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM, FORLANI TRIED TO TEST THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE ARAB POSITION ON A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE URGED THAT THE ARABS NOT CONSIDER ALL COUNTERPROPOSALS AS ABSOLUTE. CATALANO REPORTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PUBLIC SECRET

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REPORTING ON FORLANI'S MEETINGS REFLECTED ONLY A REPETITION OF WELL-KNOWN ARAB POSITIONS, THESE STATIC POSITIONS WERE BALANCED BY SOME FLEXIBILITY AND "A CERTAIN OPTIMISM" DURING THE COURSE OF PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS. ASSAD, LIKE SADAT, CONFIRMED A DESIRE TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARD PEACE FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS. KHADDAM STRESSED TO FORLANI THE NEED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES. PRESIDENT SARKIS OF LEBANON URGED FORLANI TO REPRESS THE EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES. SARKIS HAD NOTED THAT SINCE 1973 THERE HAS BEEN MORE

REALISM SHOWN BY BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS,  
AND THAT TIME IS NOT ON ISRAEL'S SIDE. A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT  
DEPENDS ON THE US AND THE USSR. THEY SHOULD PUSH THE PARTIES TO  
GENEVA.

6. THE USSR, THE US AND THE MIDDLE EAST - KILICK  
SAID THAT LONDON BELIEVES BREZHNEV'S STATE-  
MENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE NOT SEEMED  
NEGATIVE. THE SOVIET UNION APPEARS TO BE OPEN  
TO NEW IDEAS. KILICK THEN INQUIRED WHETHER  
PRESIDENT CARTER ENVISAGES THAT DEFENSE AND  
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BEYOND ISRAEL'S BOUNDARIES  
WOULD BE INTERIM OR PERMANENT IN NATURE.  
ACTION REQUESTED: WE RECOGNIZE THAT HTIS IS  
NOT A QUESTON WHICH CAN READILY BE ANSWERED  
AT THIS STAFE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE  
AS TO WHAT WE MIGHT USEFULLY SAY IN RESPONSE.

7. INDIA - KILICK COMMENTED "TENTATIVELY AND  
PROVISIONALLY" THAT THE INDIAN ELECTION  
RESULTS WOULD BRING A CHANGE IN EMPHASIS  
RATHER THAN DIRECTION IN INDIAN FOREIGN  
POLICY. THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT DISTANCING  
FROM MOSCOW, AND RELATIONS WITH THE WEST CAN  
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BE EXPECTED TO BE SOMEWHAT WARMER. LUNS  
INTERJECTED THAT THE USSR OBVIOUSLY WILL BE  
DISCOURAGED BY THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS. STRAUZ-HUPE

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